

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY NIAMEY PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

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TAGS: APER, NG

SUBJ: REMARKS FOR PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS

REF: NIAMEY 973

PARIS FOR AMBASSADOR HECK

1. I AM HONORED TO BECOME THE AMBASSADOR OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF NIGER AND THUS TO REPRESENT MY COUNTRY TO YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, AND YOUR GOVERNMENT. IT IS WITH A SENSE OF PRIDE AND ANTICIPATION THAT I FOLLOW MY DISTINGUISHED PREDECESSORS IN WORKING FOR CONTINUED, CLOSE AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

2. FOR MORE THAN FIVE YEARS, NIGER HAS BEEN ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY A SEVERE AND UNRELENTING DROUGHT. THE AGRICULTURAL AND PASTORAL STRENGTH OF THE COUNTRY HAS BEEN SERIOUSLY DIMINISHED AND THE PEOPLE SUBJECTED TO GRAVE HARDSHIPS. NEVERTHELESS, DURING THIS TIME OF UNPRECEDENTED PROBLEMS, THE PEOPLE OF NIGER HAVE INDEED BEEN FORTUNATE

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IN HAVING YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, TO GUIDE THE COUNTRY. YOUR

INSPIRATION HAS GIVEN THE PEOPLE HOPE AND COURAGE; YOUR EXAMPLE AND EXHORTATION HAVE LED NIGER TO MOBILIZE ITS RESOURCES TO THE FULLEST TO MEET THE CHALLENGE; YOUR VISION AND PLANNING ARE PREPARING NIGER TO BETTER WITHSTAND THE CRUEL VAGARIES OF NATURE IN THE FUTURE.

3. THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES HAVE BEEN DEEPLY MOVED BY THE TRAGEDY WHICH HAS BEFALLEN NIGER. THEY HAVE RESPONDED WITH AID GIVEN THROUGH PRIVATE CHANNELS AS WELL AS BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND THROUGH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. WE ARE HELPING NIGER WITH FOOD, MEDICINE, TRANSPORT AND OTHER NECESSITIES. YOU CAN BE ASSURED, MR. PRESIDENT, THAT WE WILL CONTINUE TO HELP NIGER TO MEET ITS SPECIAL NEEDS AS A RESULT OF THE DROUGHT.

4. WHILE THE DROUGHT HAS CLAIMED OUR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION, WE HAVE NEVER LOST SIGHT OF NIGER'S DEVELOPMENT NEEDS. OUR PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS HAVE SERVED IN NIGER SINCE 1962. THROUGH THE AGENCY OF INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT WE HAVE SIGNIFICANTLY HELPED NIGER DEVELOP ITS TRANSPORT AND AGRICULTURAL SECTORS AND WE ARE CURRENTLY PROVIDING FOR SUCH PROJECTS AS THE GAYA BRIDGE. WE ARE NOW WORKING WITH YOUR GOVERNMENT ON A MAJOR, LONG-TERM EFFORT TO STRENGTHEN AGRICULTURAL AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION IN NIGER.

5. AMERICAN PARTICIPATION IN NIGER'S FUTURE IS ALSO HIGHLIGHTED BY THE EFFORTS OF SOME OF OUR PRIVATE COMPANIES WHICH ARE WORKING WITH YOUR GOVERNMENT FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF NIGER'S NATURAL RESOURCES.

6. MR. PRESIDENT, THE HARMONY AND COOPERATION BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES HAVE BEEN CLOSE AND ENDURING. WHILE HERE I WILL DEVOTE MY VERY BEST EFFORTS WITH YOUR HELP, MR. PRESIDENT, TO STRENGTHEN THE ALREADY FIRM BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE REPUBLIC OF NIGER.

7. MR. PRESIDENT, I BRING YOU THE WARM PERSONAL GREETINGS OF PRESIDENT NIXON, AND THE BEST WISHES OF OUR GOVERNMENT AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE FOR THE CONTINUED ADVANCEMENT

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AND WELL BEING OF THE REPUBLIC OF NIGER.

8. I HAVE THE HONOR, IN CONCLUSION, TO PRESENT TO YOU THE LETTER OF RECALL OF MY DISTINGUISHED PREDECESSOR, AMBASSADOR ROSWELL D. MCCLELLAND, AND THE LETTERS BY WHICH PRESIDENT NIXON ACCREDITS ME TO YOUR EXCELLENCY, AS AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

FOLLOWING IS FRENCH TEXT:

C'EST POUR MOI UN HONNEUR QUE DE DEVENIR AMBASSADEUR DES ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE EN REPUBLIQUE DU NIGER ET DE REPRESENTER AINSI MON PAYS AUPRES DE VOUS, MONSIEUR LE PRESIDENT, ET DE VOTRE GOUVERNEMENT. C'EST AVEC UN SENTIMENT DE FIERTE ET D'ANTICIPATION QUE JE REPRENDS LA MISSION DE MES EMINENTS PREDECESSEURS POUR TRAVAILLER A LA CONTINUATION DES RELATIONS ETROITES ET CORDIALES ENTRE NOS DEUX PAYS.

DEPUIS PLUS DE CINQ ANS, LE NIGER EST AFFECTE DE MANIERE ADVERSE PAR UNE SECHERESSE GRAVE ET SANS REMISSION. LE POTENTIEL DU PAYS EN MATIERE D'AGRICULTURE ET D'ELEVAGE S'EST TROUVE SERIEUSEMENT COMPROMIS ET LA POPULATION SOUMISE A DE GRANDES SOUFFRANCES. TOUTEFOIS, DURANT CETTE PERIODE DE DIFFICULTES SANS PRECEDENT, LE PEUPLE DU NIGER A EU LA FORTUNE DE VOUS AVOIR, MONSIEUR LE PRESIDENT, POUR GUIDER LE PAYS. VOUS LUI AVEZ INSPIRE ESPOIR ET COURAGE; VOTRE EXEMPLE ET VOS EXHORTATIONS ONT INCITE LE NIGER A MOBILISER SES RESSOURCES AU PLUS HAUT POINT POUR FAIRE FACE A LA SITUATION; VOTRE JUGEMENT ECLAIRE ET VOS PLANS AIDERONT LE NIGER A MIEUX SUPPORTER DANS L'AVENIR LES CRUELS CAPRICES DE LA NATURE.

LE PEUPLE DES ETATS-UNIS A ETE PROFONDEMENT EMU PAR LA TRAGEDIE QUI A FRAPPE LE NIGER. SA REACTION S'EST TRADUITE PAR L'ASSISTANCE EMANANT DU SECTEUR PRIVE AUSSI BIEN QUE DU GOUVERNEMENT DES ETATS-UNIS ET DES ORGANISATIONS INTERNATIONALES. NOTRE AIDE AU NIGER COMPORTE PRODUITS ALIMENTAIRES, MEDICAMENTS, MOYENS DE TRANSPORT ET AUTRES NECESSES. QU'IL ME SOIT PERMIS DE VOUS ASSURER, MONSIEUR LE

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PRESIDENT, QUE NOUS CONTINUERONS A AIDER LE NIGER A REpondre AUX BESOINS SPECIAUX ENGENDRES PAR LA SECHERESSE.

BIEN QUE LA SECHERESSE RETIENNE NOTRE ATTENTION DANS L'IMMEDIAT, NOUS N'AVONS PAS PERDU DE VUE LES BESOINS DU NIGER EN MATIERE DE DEVELOPPEMENT. LES VOLONTAIRES DU CORPS DE LA PAIX SERVENT AU NIGER DEPUIS 1962. PAR LE TRUCHEMENT DE L'AGENCE POUR LE DEVELOPPEMENT INTERNATIONAL, NOUS AVONS SENSIBLEMENT AIDE LE NIGER A DEVELOPPER LES SECTEURS DES TRANSPORTS ET DE L'AGRICULTURE ET NOUS ASSURONS ACTUELLEMENT LA REALISATION DE PROJETS COMME LA CONSTRUCTION DU PONT DE GAYA. NOUS COLLABORONS EN CE MOMENT AVEC VOTRE GOUVERNEMENT A UN VASTE PROGRAMME A LONG TERME VISANT A RENFORCER LA PRODUCTION DE L'AGRICULTURE ET DE L'ELEVAGE AU NIGER.

LA PARTICIPATION AMERICAINE A L'AVENIR DU NIGER EST
EGALEMENT MARQUEE PAR LES EFFORTS DE CERTAINES DE NOS
ENTREPRISES PRIVEES QUI TRAVAILLENT AVEC VOTRE GOUVERNE-
MENT AUX FINS DU DEVELOPPEMENT FUTUR DES RESSOURCES
NATURELLES DU NIGER.

MONSIEUR LE PRESIDENT, L'HARMONIE ET LA COOPERATION
ETROITE MARQUENT DE LONGUE DATE LES RELATIONS ENTRE NOS
DEUX PAYS. PENDANT MA MISSION ICI, JE CONSACRERAI TOUS
MES EFFORTS, AVEC VOTRE AIDE, MONSIEUR LE PRESIDENT, AU
RENFORCEMENT DES LIENS D'AMITIE DEJA FERMES ENTRE LES
ETATS-UNIS ET LA REPUBLIQUE DU NIGER.

MONSIEUR LE PRESIDENT, JE VOUS APPORTE LES SALUTA-
TIONS PERSONNELLES CHALEUREUSES DU PRESIDENT NIXON, AINSI
QUE LES MEILLEURS VOEUX DU GOUVERNEMENT ET DU PEUPLE DES
ETATS-UNIS POUR LE PROGRES CONTINU ET LE BIEN-ETRE DE LA
REPUBLIQUE DU NIGER.

J'AI L'HONNEUR, POUR CONCLURE, DE VOUS PRESENTER LA
LETTRE DE RAPPEL DE MON DISTINGUE PREDECESSEUR, L'AMBASSA-
DEUR ROSWELL D. MCCLELLAND, ET LES LETTRES PAR LESQUELLES
LE PRESIDENT NIXON M'ACCREDITE AUPRES DE VOTRE EXCELLENCE
EN QUALITE D'AMBASSADEUR EXTRAORDINAIRE ET PLENIPOTENTIAL-
RE DES ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE. KISSINGER
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